



County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

March 19, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF
INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE SOURCE NEGOTIATIONS TO EXTEND
AGREEMENT NUMBER 71696 WITH APPRISS INCORPORATED
FOR AUTOMATED VICTIM NOTIFICATION SERVICES**

This letter provides advance notification to your Board that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) intends to enter into sole-source negotiations to extend Agreement Number 71696 with Appriss Incorporated (Appriss) for an additional five (5) year period without engaging in a competitive solicitation process. The current agreement with Appriss Incorporated expires June 30, 2008.

PURPOSE

The proposed extension will allow for the continued automated Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) services. The VINE service is an early warning system that notifies victims, as mandated by California Penal Code Section 646.92, of the release, escape and/or transfer of their perpetrators from the Los Angeles County jail facilities.

BACKGROUND

VINE services provide incoming and outgoing call services for crime victims within a specific state, county or city. Victims of crime can call a toll-free number, access www.vinelink.com, or speak to a VINE Service Representative (VSR) to receive basic information regarding an offender.

Appriss provides these services by linking the Department's computer system into the automated Appriss Communication Center in Louisville, Kentucky. All information provided through this service is public information.

A Tradition of Service

Crime victims and other concerned citizens in Los Angeles County may use VINE services for access to timely and reliable information regarding the incarceration status of offenders 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, over the telephone, through the internet, or by email. Appriss also provides live operator support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Victims can call to inquire about the current incarceration status of an offender and register to be notified immediately in the event of the offender's release, escape, or transfer. As of November 2007, there were 31,333 active registrations of Los Angeles County offenders. In 2007, there were more than 91,500 internet searches, 24,500 telephone searches, 2,860 new registrations, and 3,400 notifications to registered victims regarding offenders in Los Angeles County. The annual cost for Fiscal Year 2007-08 is \$338,766.

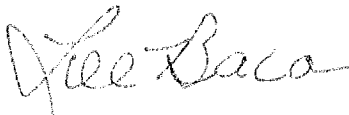
SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

In 1998, the Department released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for automated Victim Notification Services. Interactive Services, LLC, which was later renamed Appriss Incorporated, was the only firm to respond. Appriss developed a custom interface with the Department's Automated Justice Information System (AJIS) software to provide the VINE service, which makes this service cost effective for Los Angeles County. Since 1998, Appriss has provided victim notification services to the citizens of Los Angeles County. Prior to the 2003 extension amendment, the Department contacted several law enforcement agencies throughout California and it was determined that Appriss continued to be the sole provider of the VINE service. In fact, the VINE service now serves communities in 43 states and 41 counties in California. At least 16 states and several municipalities have concluded that Appriss remains the sole source provider of this service. The California Sheriff's Association has contracted with Appriss to begin the development of a Statewide VINE system. Until that Statewide System is in place, it will be necessary for Los Angeles County to continue to provide this service.

The Department will proceed with sole source contract negotiations in two (2) weeks unless otherwise instructed by your Board.

Should additional information be required, your staff may contact Mona Whittouck, Contracts Manager, at (323) 526-5074.

Sincerely,



LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF